

THE BLUFFTON

PEACE SENTINEL

Vol. 1

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No. 13

MCLEAN, OLSEN VISIT CAMP

Major McLean and Mr. Victor Olsen from the Camp Operations Division of Selective Service, visited Camp Bluffton this week. Major McLean arrived Sunday morning during the closing minutes of the Sunday School session. That evening he spoke to the boys, stressing that the attitude of the government, and of selective service, had not changed since the declaration of war. The present program is to be retained for the most part. A few new projects are in sight for which men who have best adjusted themselves to the present program will be chosen, on a voluntary basis.

Major McLean also stressed the point that for the good of our cause it is of the utmost importance that we be discreet in the things we say and do. He quoted a well known pacifist, stating that the success of the present set-up was the best insurance for the future good and furtherance of the way of life in which we believe.

Work Record Good

Mr. Olsen, who arrived Wednesday evening, was mainly interested in the work program. He expressed unusual satisfaction with the type of work being done by the men in the various Civilian Public Service Camp throughout the nation, stating that the record is far better than that of any other group ever recorded.

Banker Speaks

Last Sunday evening's speaker was Mr. E.W. Baumgartner, cashier of the First Bank of Berne. Judging from the re-action, the address was quite a success. He spent the evening stressing leadership. "After this war there will especially be a great need for leaders", he said. Mr. Baumgartner went on then to point out the things that go to make up a leader. Because supposed leaders fail, new leaders are needed.

NEW CLASSES ARE STARTED

The new education program is now under way. The heart of the program is the core course which meets on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. This course is an attempt to understand the Christian nonresistant way of life and its application in the modern world. Ours being a Mennonite camp, considerable attention is given to the Mennonite heritage. We are seeking to understand the part which nonresistance has played in the life of the church. And from this we hope to learn ways and means of making our witness more constructive and effective in the world today. The non-resistant Christian has a definite obligation to the nation, the state, and the community. We expect the course to help us meet this obligation in a better way. All members of the camp are expected to attend the meetings of the core course.

Special Classes Offered

In addition to the core course there is the first aid class for all assignees, and several smaller classes representing
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Three Men Transferred

Three Methodist boys transferred to the Quaker camp at Merom, Indiana last week, to learn to know new friends and in order to go more deeply into the C.O. training program which the Quaker people have in their camps.

All of the boys held an important place in our camp set-up. Ivan Bean was our infirmery attendant. Louis Lock and Romain Zahm are being missed as the paper goes to press. Romain was the associate editor and Louis production manager.

All three of the boys are being missed. It was our gain to have had members of the Methodist church in our group; adding to the appreciation of different viewpoints.

Heroic Patterns

by Willis
Hershberger



During the World War, a conscientious objector Duane Swift was drafted. He refused to join the fighting force of our land, so he was sent to Camp Pike, Arkansas.

The guards placed heavy iron shackles upon his ankles. Lugs on the ankle rings were wounds through the flesh. Also he was shackled with a short heavy chain about 16 inches long. However, with this handicap he became the best worker in camp. Tasks he performed were ditch digging and moving stones. At times he carried stones weighing from 5 to 150 pounds, a distance of 50 yards over rough ground with the shackles on. The officers could not understand where he received his strength; Duane spent the day singing, whistling, and praying while he worked.

His living quarters were a room 18 by 30 feet with 60 fellow prisoners. Sanitary conditions were poor, he ate and slept on the ground. Yet he lived through this experience until his release after the Armistice.

THE NEW EDUCATION PROGRAM (cont. fr. p. 1)

special interests of the boys in camp. The classes in bookkeeping, agriculture and Bible are well attended. The chorus is doing good work, and there are fifteen boys taking piano lessons. Friday evening is reserved for special features, usually lectures by persons outside the camp. Last week S. C. Yoder of Goshen, Indiana, gave a helpful travel talk on South America, illustrated with pictures taken by himself. About twice monthly brief safety lectures are held previous to the regular feature on Friday evening. On Saturday the Wells County library trailer stops at the camp, giving the boys an opportunity to check out books for a month's use.

MEDITATIONS

by Mrs. Guy F. Hershberger

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." The hand is a symbol of action, an instrument of achievement. Your hands speak for you, oftentimes unwittingly. Have you ever stopped to think what all our hands do say? They are lifted in prayer, extended in a friendly handshake, folded in peace and quietness, clinched when one is angry, joined when making the marriage vow. We often speak of clean hands as characterizing a clean life. When making a pledge or promise individuals concerned often say, "Let's shake hands on that."

There are many different types of hands; we have the busy hand, the withered or indolent hand, the clean hand and many other types.

The person with the busy hand is always wanted. He is a person on whom you can depend. He is not afraid if they become calloused, and horny and hard. The busy hand often becomes wrinkled and scarred. But hands that give service cheerfully become precious and beautiful.

The withered hand is one that could work, but won't. It may be soft and white and unmarred, but what a pitiful sight. It is of no use. God pity an individual who can make no use of his hands.

Clean hands are usually also willing hands. "Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord, and who shall stand in the holy place? He that hath clean hands and a pure heart." Clean hands often are spoken of as representing a clean life. Let us not defile our hands by anything that is questionable.

May God give us clean open hands. May they be hands of love, helpfulness and mercy. The world is surely in need of your hands. Are you willing to let them be used?

CHRISTNER WINS TOURNAMENT

The semi-final and the final game of the ping pong tournament were played this afternoon. Bert Jones and Sam Miller were defeated by very close scores in the semi-finals. Ernie Christner won the tournament by outscoring Arley Birkey in the finals. This is the second time Ernie won the championship title.

"The man who wakes up and finds himself famous hasn't been asleep."

LAUNDRY NOTES

by
Albert Jones

We are grateful to those who helped deliver laundry last week to their dorms, when the weather was so cold. Especially to our good friend Judson Hill who assisted with the ironing of dress shirts.

With warmer weather the crew has more elbow room by hanging much of the clothing outside.

FISH and GAME

by Dennis Lehman

Work is going on as usual with only a short disturbance by the cold weather which gave us a few days of rest. Monday was the only regular work day in which none of the game men worked, and now we are all going about again, at our various jobs, scattered over more territory than ever before.

One gang is working on the east boundary line of the State Forest, putting up the line fence; while another gang is working on the fence around the field that is to contain the lake which the foresters are building.

Four White Deer Trapped

While some are building, others are wrecking. The corral in which the white deer had been kept is now empty, with very little life remaining in the field where they used to roam. The four animals were trapped in a special pen which had been built for that purpose. After they had been trapped it was easy to put them into special crates and load them on trucks. Two were taken to Warsaw, and the other two to Decatur, Indiana.

Levi Hershberger, who had been looking down on everyone while repairing windows on the watch tower, is now working in the cellar of the cottage, putting in a door.

The other carpenters, Chriss Slabaugh and "Wickie" Miller are busy working in the coon pens, putting in partitions of double wire netting, leaving two inches of space

FORESTRY PROJECT

by
Bud Rensberger



Stratifying Seeds

Ole man winter made his presence felt here very harshly last week, with sub-zero temperatures ranging from eight above to eight below, there was very little work accomplished. A few of the men worked in the service building, stratifying seeds in peat moss. The seeds are put into layers in the peat moss which is moistened with water or acid. The purpose of stratifying is to soften the seed coat so that the seeds will germinate sooner when they are planted.

Twelve Men Transferred

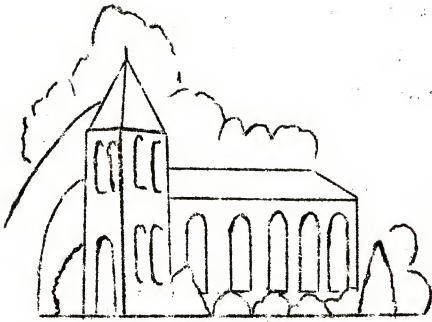
The forestry division has adopted a dozen men from the Fish and Game division. These men under the supervision of Mr. Cook and Mr. Phillips are preparing to transplant small pine trees. The trees are now located on the site where the lake is to be formed. Some encouraging news was reported on the lake project this week. It is believed that sometime in the future we will get some power machinery to aid in excavating the soil.

Gunden and Smith have been transferred to the east garage. They will take care of the new trucks, and make repairs when necessary. Archie Mishler has been appointed truck-master. His duties will be to look after the trucks while they are on the project, and he will be in charge of the heavy machinery when it arrives.

WILLIAM MILLER'S FATHER ILL

The father of William Miller became seriously ill Thursday evening due to a heart ailment. It was feared that death was near and so William was called home. Fortunately Mr. Miller improved rapidly, enabling his son to return to camp. He has been in poor health for some time.





THE BLUFFTON PEACE SENTINEL

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of C.P.S. Camp No. 13 at Bluffton, Indiana.

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There is nothing unusual about an audience applauding a speaker. Ordinarily that is to be expected. It may, however, be unusual for an audience of conscientious objectors to applaud the speech of a military leader; yet common courtesy might demand it. But when that audience, instantaneously and to a man, thunderously applauds the words of a military leader, something really has happened. It happened here last Sunday evening when Major McLean, of the Camp Operations Division spoke to the boys, and again Thursday evening after Mr. Olsen had spoken.

There was ~~something~~ about ~~these~~ men's very attitude that, despite our fundamental disagreement, we could not help but respect. Realizing that represent the best viewpoint of our government, which in turn represents the best viewpoint of the majority of the American people, we could not help but feel truly grateful to God for the land in which we live. We have their assurance that the attitude of Selective Service has not changed since the war started. We will be permitted to continue serving our country without being asked to do something which, before God, we could not conscientiously do. Basically, the present program is to be retained. The changes that are being made will not curtail present privileges but will give us opportunities for greater service.

We appreciate the spirit of Major McLean and Mr. Olsen. We appreciate the attitude of Selective Service; the attitude of our government. Such a spirit and attitude creates within us a desire to so submit ourselves to the will of God that our lives, day by day, might become truly effective in doing whatever may be set before us to do.

- - -CML

Four Ideas That Must be Changed

In these days of marching armies and falling bombs, we may fail to realize that it is not these; but ideas which rule the world and determine the movements and ends of men and nations. It is the out-working of wrong ideas which brings the armies and bombers into action. While we now shudder at the awful results of those ideas, let us also diligently set about to discover just what they are.

In this quest we will find at least four such, which must be changed before a better era can ensue, and which are submitted herewith:

1. That a man (or nation) is entitled to the sole enjoyment of all he can get in

this world.

2. That a man (or nation) is great in proportion to his ability to master and utilize, or exploit his fellowmen.

3. That a resort to arms is the final determinant between nations.

4. That national greatness is to be interpreted in terms of industrial, economic, and military prowess.

Changing such deeply entrenched ideas must be indeed a long and even painful process, but it needs be undertaken; for we see today that as a nation, or world thinketh, so is it.

R.L.H.

Kitchen Left Overs

Raymond Miller and Howard Wenger have been added to the kitchen force as waiters, replacing Willis Hershberger and Norman Begly. Norman is back at his old job as cook while Willis returned to his former work in the forestry division.

Louis Lock has left with his cheerful disposition for Camp Merom, but pleasant memories will always linger with us. We are wondering if he is mixing salads at his new camp as he did here.

A few days ago, while drinking cocoa, I was the victim of a joke. One of the waiters poured some Old Dutch Cleanser in my cocoa while my back was turned. After drinking all but the last swallow, I stopped to stir what I thought was sugar in the bottom of the cup. That last swallow nearly floored me!!

C. L. Graber and S. C. Yoder from Goshen College, Victor A. Olsen and Major McLean of Selective Service were recent dinner guests.

HABEGGER AND LEHMAN TO GO TO ELGIN, ILLINOIS

It has just been learned here that Loris Habegger and Dennis Lehman will be transferred to Elgin, Illinois where they will be assigned to a new project for conscientious objectors. There will be from twenty to twenty five men from various camps who are to do work at the state hospital for mental illness. Just how soon the men are to be transferred was not learned by press time tonight although it is thought to be in the very near future. Both Loris and Dennis volunteered for this work.

Quartette at Bluffton

The camp quartette, Ralph Fletcher, Milo Stalter, Judson Hill, and Harley Birkey sang at a meeting of the Rotary Club in the city of Bluffton, Indiana Tuesday evening January 6th.

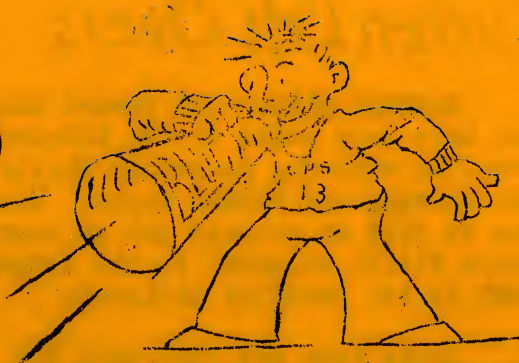
The same quartette is to sing at the First Methodist Church in Bluffton Sunday January 18th. They will sing for the morning service.

A thirty per cent Christian can't be a 100 per cent American.

CAMP DIRECTORY (concluded)

John Weaver	Fredericksburg, Ohio	Candleing Eyes	Old Order Amish
Harry Weirich	Shipshewana, Ind.	Shoveling Earl	Old Order Amish
Howard Wenger	Goshen, Indiana	Woodworker	Mennonite
Monroe Bengard	Beach City, Ohio	Carpenter	Old Order Amish
John Whetstone	Middlebury, Ind.	Farming	Old Order Amish
Abe Yoder	Millersburg, O.	Farming	Old Order Amish
Alvin Yoder	Fredericksburg, O.	Farming	Old Order Amish
Carl Yoder	Kent, Ohio	Farming	Mennonite
Daniel Yoder	Millersburg, Ohio	Farming	Old Order Amish
David Yoder	Middlebury, Ind.	Farming	Old Order Amish
Eli Yoder	Millersburg, Ohio	Farming	Old Order Amish
Elmer Yoder	Millersburg, Ohio	Farming	Old Order Amish
Joni Yoder	Millersburg, Ohio	Carpenter	Old Order Amish
John Yoder	Beach City, Ohio	Farming	Old Order Amish
Felvin Yoder	Millersburg, Ohio	Sawmill Blocker	Old Order Amish
Paul A. Yoder	Millersburg, Ohio	Feed Milling	Old Order Amish
Paul J. Yoder	Middlebury, Indiana	Garage Mechanic	Mennonite
Phineas Yoder	Millersburg, Ohio	Sawmill Employee	Old Order Amish
Rudolph Yoder	Goshen, Indiana	Farming	Mennonite
Loren Zimmerman	Planagan, Illinois	Farmer & Electric	Mennonite
Norman Zook	Mio, Michigan	Truck Driver	Mennonite

KAMPUS KAPERS



Roses to George Smith, new dorm A captain, on his latest work "How to stuff the ballot box".

It has been suggested that we form a "Humane Society" here at C. P. S. Camp #13 to see that poor, defenseless, quiet fellows like Gordon Habegger do not have to suffer at the hands of the "bigger boys". Someone said that last Monday nite one of these mean fellows removed enough foundation material from Gordon's cot that if it hadn't been for the floor, no one knows where he would have landed when he made his nightly high jump into bed.

To "Shocproof"
Sleeps late,
Scraps like a rooster,
Writes lots of mail,
But gets no lätters like he uster.

We have often marvelled at the size of Fred Stamm's family tree. The names of his female cousins alone, would fill a good sized book. Does he really have a cousin for every letter he explains away by "Oh she's just a cousin"?

Noah Bontrager has given up going back to the farm because he finds that being banker when the boys of Dorm B play Monopoly proves to be a higher paid job. In fact he says that with a little careful tongue play he can talk the boys into buying a property that would be a bargain at twice the price.

"Little Abner" Yoder has a fond desire to go swimming in January with ice skates and three pair of pants on his person. The funny part of the "swim" developed as trou-

ers froze while Abner was trying to limp into port. Skating stifflegged is a new one - just try it.

How about the fellow in dorm F who referred to the "omlet" as "pretty good egg mash".

The boys in dorm E have been complaining about Elias Raber trying to make a "blacksmith shop" out of an other wise peaceful dorm. They are wondering why he doesn't try to get a job as a sound effect man.

Dorm F has been enjoying its playboys again. Noah Raber and Abe Yoder have been taking turns "tucking" each other into bed the last few evenings.

Don't tell us these office jobs aren't tough on some fellows. Formerly Lowell Hersberger was unable to sleep after 4:30 A. M. But here of late his mind is so tired and exhausted, even after eight hours of sleep, that he sleeps right thru bells and all.

Truck drivers having difficulty getting out of their trucks could take a few lessons from Harlen Birkey. Be sure and bring your own mice.

That famous D stove had it's revenge after Ed Rutt threw in a good big three scuttles of coal. It huffed and puffed and scared poor Ed till he had quite a time getting his heart back down his throat again.

Who said Lyle Strauss has a good memory? How about that cake his Mother brought him for his birthday which he left on top of his locker in a tin can for three days?



The Spirit of Nonresistance

Guy F. Hershberger

The spirit of nonresistance requires learning and doing. The nonresistant Christian must seek to discover new and better ways of living the life he professes. He must be on the alert to detect slips and failures. And he must be willing to act on what he learns. If he does those things he will, like the good soil in Jesus' parable of the sower, be able to bear fruit, thirty, sixty, perhaps an hundredfold.

He who has the genuine spirit of learning will recognize the truth from whatever source it comes. Conscientious objectors do not have a natural tendency to look to military leaders as a source of knowledge by which to live their non-resistant life more effectively. But every man at Camp Bluffton with a mind to learn could not help being impressed as Major McLean and Victor Olsen of Selective Service spoke at the camp this past week. First these gentlemen made it clear that the United States government has no intention to change the status of the conscientious objector. It recognizes the sacredness of conscience and stands ready to help the nonresistant people serve their nation in ways which will not conflict with that conscience. This knowledge itself should inspire the Christian to strive for a more fruitful nonresistant life.

Secondly, the opportunities for service in the CPS program, so vividly portrayed by Mr. Olsen, are such as to inspire every true conscientious objector to do his very best in that program. Surely no one with these messages on his heart will yield to the temptation to loaf on the job, to seek escape from his duties through unwarranted leaves or imaginary sicknesses, or to bring reproach to the cause in which we believe through any kind of indiscretions. The spirit of nonresistance is learning and doing.

Better a little "taffy" while they live than so much "epitaphy" when they're dead.

CAMP COUNCIL MEETS

The camp council met Monday evening to discuss a number of questions which had arisen. It was decided to limit the number of week-end leaves from camp to ten for one year, dating from the individual's entrance to camp. It was also decided to alternate camp and council meetings. One week the council is to meet, with the entire camp meeting the following week, discussing problems as they arise.

"Many a man throws his tongue into high gear before he gets his brain going."

FOOD for THOUGHT

by Myrtle Kolb

"Somebody talked! -- and this happened." Those were the words printed on a poster which hung in the waiting room of a large depot where we waited for a train not so long ago. The poster showed a troop train wrecked by sabotage. It was meant, I suppose, to give one just the kind of jolt which we experienced. Near it was another -- some words, but this time a torpedoed ship, floundering and sinking. Our train came in and we were on our way but the wheels kept repeating -- "Somebody talked! -- and this happened. Somebody talked! -- and this happened. -- as we tore through the night. Food for thought indeed, and in concentrated form.

Somehow it didn't seem fair that such a little thing could have such disastrous consequence. Perhaps it was first some mother telling a kind and interested friend when her boy was sailing for overseas service; or when his train would be going through town on its way to the coast. Perfectly innocent words, but picked up by some enemy and used for the destruction of any number of men. Sabotage! -- it's a nasty word, and it's unpleasant to think that the talker shares the guilt with the doer.

Perhaps, since we know no military secrets, there is no danger of our being caught in anything like that. At least
(continued on page eight)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT
(cont. fr. p. 7)

not from a military angle. But how about moral sabotage? Somebody talked! -- and a reputation was dragged in the mud, hearts were broken, and friendships spoiled. Somebody talked! -- and clouds of misunderstanding rose blacking out all the sincere efforts and the good intentions and leaving only envy and suspicion.

It gets to be a rather terrific responsibility, and the little verse. --

Boys flying kites haul in their white - winged birds; you can't do that when you are flying words.

Words still unspoken quickly fall back dead, but God Himself can't stop them once they're said. --

Comes to mind with ever greater meaning. Somebody talked!

FISH AND GAME
(cont. fr. p. 3)

between each pen. This makes it impossible for the young 'coons to reach through the netting from one pen to the other. Many of them had not been taught to keep their paws to themselves and were teasing the children of other 'coons in nearby pens. The only permanent cure that the food housekeeper knew was to promptly bite off the leg of any such offending neighbor.

An old 'soon was hanging on the netting in one of the pens. "Wickie", barber that he is, began pulling one hair after another from the 'coon's body. Annoyed lazy Mrs. 'Coon looked "Wickie" squarely in the eye, took aim, spat, and scored a direct hit. "Wickie", pulling out his handkerchief and wiping his face, mumbled, "Never again will I do it".

IN OTHER CAMPS

"As an experiment, a series of round tables dealing with conscientious objection to military training and war and related questions is being planned for the entire group in camp. These round tables will be conducted in a democratic manner, speakers from different points of view being presented and everyone being urged to ask questions and present his own views." --Magnolia Time Peace, C.P.S. No.

"Commencing at 7:00 p.m., New Year's Eve, Camp Director, L. C. Blickenstaff, opened the reading of the New Testament. Reading continued in the chapel, without a break, until the final verse of the Bible was read 10 p.m. New Year's Day. The main object was to obtain a unified reading of the Testament. During the nineteen hours, 23 different men took active part, while other campers stopped in to listen at their convenience." --Builders, C.P.S. No. 17.

"Within two weeks the selected personnel of the China Service Unit should be in training here at Camp Lagro. The possibility of transportation to Burma some time between Feb. 15, and March 15 give us added encouragement to proceed immediately with an intensive training program. Arrangements have been made to have the unit personnel in the south end of bunk house No. 14. While here in camp the men will not be required to participate in the project work but will be permitted to spend their time on preparation for the anticipated work in China."

--the Salamonie Peace Pipe, C.P.S. No. 6.

"A new building will be erected on our camp site in the near future. This building will house a chapel, reading room and educational office."

--Whispering Pines, C.P.S. No. 8.



Goshen College Library

Goshen College

Goshen, Ind.

